

ABSTRACT

The invention is an Internet access system and a method for providing economical high-speed Internet access from shareable locations using an existing telephone infrastructure. The invention comprises a system of multiple shareable terminals connected by telephone wiring to a central server which is in turn connected to the Internet. The shareable terminal is a relatively "dumb" terminal comprising a display, input/output buffers, a DSL modem, telephone line interface circuitry, a keyboard and a mouse. The telephone wiring is common voice-grade telephone wiring normally existing within a building. The central server comprises a computer along with telephone interface circuitry such as a DSLAM and an interface to the Internet. The central server provides the data processing and storage capability for supporting the shareable terminals.